

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 2-6, 9 and 10 are found to contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 7, 8, 15-16, 18-19 and 21-22 stand rejected as being anticipated by Akahori (US 6,889,239) under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

It is respectfully submitted that Akahori is an improper reference since its U.S. filing date is October 17, 2001 which is after applicant's U.S. filing date of August 13, 2001. Foreign priority dates are not accorded a 35 U.S.C. §102(e) date.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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